(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to bring serving/retired civilians at par with men in uniform serving/retired; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The civilians and the personnel belonging to the Armed Forces posted in the Defence Headquarters perform their duties as per the functions and responsibilities assigned to the posts held by them.

(b) The civilians and the personnel belonging to the Armed Forces posted in the defence headquarters are governed by different terms and conditions of service because of which there are some inherent differences. Hence, the question of discrimination does not arise.

(c) Not applicable in view of the reply at serial (b) above.

(d) Not applicable in view of the reply at serial (b) above.

Inadequate power supply to electric fencing along LOC

†2338. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the electrical fencing erected on the Line of Control along Indo-Pak border is proving to be un-effective for non-availability of adequate supply of power; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to ensure uninterrupted supply of power for the fencing erected there?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Adequate measures are in place to protect the Line of Control.

Defence equipments produced with cooperation of other countries

†2339. SHRI JAIPARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the names of the countries by the cooperation of which the manufacturing of Defence equipments, aircrafts and helicopters is being undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): Some of the countries in cooperation of which India has been manufacturing Defence equipments, aircrafts and helicopters include Russia, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Israel, France, United Kingdom, United States of America and Belgium.

Upgradation and modernization of mirage fighters

2340. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the French manufacturers of the Mirage fighter aircrafts are shutting down the manufacturing line;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Government is yet negotiating with the manufacturers to upgrade/modernize the aircrafts operational life;

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† Original notice of tl\p question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to ensure the quality and schedule of modernization;

(d) whether it is a fact that the French manufacturers have sought to substantially increase the price of spares/repairs over and above the original terms of agreement;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether the aircrafts can be manufactured and modernized under licence within the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The French Original Equipment Manufacturers have informed that they were closing down the production line of Mirage-2000 aircraft.

(b) and (c) Proposal for upgradation of Mirage-2000 aircraft is under discussioi with the French side and it has yet to be finalized. Though the production line is being shut down, the French side have assured continued product support for the upgraded aircraft.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Repair and Overhaul facilities for airframe and engine of Mirage 2000 aircraft are set up in India. However, some spares are sourced from Original Equipment Manufacturers abroad and repairs of select items is also carried out in France. The issues relating to procurement of spares and product support system are being discussed and negotiated with the French.

(f) There is no proposal to manufacture the aircraft under license within the country.

Imposition of Army Act on BRO

2341. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) when was Army Act imposed on BRO and why;

(b) whether BRO persons were provided free ration at par with Army right from the beginning;

(c) if not, after how many years ration has been equalized;

(d) whether clothing similar to Army was provided to GREF/BRO personnel working in tough terrains; and

(e) if so, whether all the GREF/BRO personnel are provided all items in time without any lapse?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Army Act has been made applicable to Border Roads Organization since 23rd September, 1960, because General Reserve Engineer Force has been designed and set up by the Government of India to meet the requirement of roads of operational and strategic importance for the Army.